

St. John's choir reunites to celebrate 20 years since "Dreamcoat"

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SPECIAL TO THE CLIPPER



The St. John's junior choir was chosen to be in the cast of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in 1996.

Twenty years ago, the junior choir of St. John The Evangelist Church of Duxbury was chosen to be in the cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Colonial Theatre in Boston. On March 26, the "Dreamcoat" choir members and chaperones got together to celebrate, connect and remember their unique experience. Donny Osmond starred as Joseph in the show which opened on March 27, 1996. The choir appeared in 52 shows after rehearsing with the professional crew for over a month. Children ages nine to 15 were eligible to participate. Now they are all grown up in their late 20s and early 30s and spread be throughout the world from Africa to Austin to San Francisco. Two members are married!

Memories included the cast bus trips, having fun with Donny and the rest of the cast, being treated like celebrities as they left through the "Star" door each night, being interviewed on TV, performing outdoors at Faneuil Hall, learning all the music and choreography for the show, and of course, the unforgettable moment when they were chosen to be part of the cast. It never got boring, one member recalled, because each night was different but it was a demanding schedule since they would arrive back in Duxbury around midnight from the 8 p.m. shows.

Roy Kelley, the St. John's music director, as well as the chaperones and choir moms were also on hand to celebrate. The original audition and the many pictures and mementoes sparked memories of the experience. Kelley was honored for his help in preparing for the audition. Several choir members have gone into music related careers including dance, vocal music and acting. Most important, they treasure the unique bond they will always have which began 20

years ago. Members of the cast who came from Duxbury, Kingston and Plymouth were Holly Andreson, Shelby Briggs, Meghan Caffrey, Tiffany Carnuccio, Alexis Carnuccio, Tristan Cary, Natalie Craig, Emily Craig, Alison Craig, Lauren Garrity, Tom Godfrey, Alex Hallowell, Sarah Kemball, Sarah Mattern, Josh Peters, Justin Peters, Kelsey Ray, Tom O'Brien, Miranda O'Brien, Rebecca Richards, Samantha Sprole, Jay Steinke, Melody Tang, Jeff Tiberi and Kristen Van der Veen. Choir moms and chaperones included Doanne Andresen, Sue Briggs, Beth Caffrey, Dolores Cary, Robin Hallowell, Donna Ray and Joyce Tiberi. Mary Steinke acted as the coordinator between the show and choir. Margaret Hill was the choir assistant and guitarist.



Members of the cast reunited last month to celebrate a 20th anniversary.

Photos courtesy Kitty Marrone